

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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R 041454Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSULATE LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2986

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 862

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: REACTION IN ANGOLA TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL

1. I TALKED ON OCTOBER 3 WITH ANGOLAN JUNTA MEMBER BRIGADIER GENERAL CARDOSO, WHO SAID THAT WITHOUT EXCEPTION MILITARY MEN IN ANGOLA ARE PLEASED WITH THE ACCESSION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF COSTA GOMES. THE MILITARY HERE NOW EXPECT THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS TO GO SMOOTHLY, SAID CARDOSO, BECAUSE COSTA GOMES IS A MAN WITH WHOM YOU CAN REASON. HE SAID THAT COSTA GOMES IS WELL REMEMBERED BY ANGOLANS FROM HIS TOUR HERE AS CINC IN 1970-1972. HE TRAVELLED WIDELY, MADE MANY FRIENDS AND WAS A POPULAR FIGURE.

2. THE ANGOLAN JUNTA, SAID CARDOSO, CALLED COSTA GOMES ON SEPTEMBER 30 TO ASK IF THERE WOULD BE ANY CHANGE IN CURRENT DECOLONIZATION POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA. COSTA GOMES ASSURED THEM THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE. JUNTA PRESIDENT AND MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO WENT TO LISBON ON OCTOBER 2 FOR CONSULTATIONS AND WILL BE BACK OCTOBER 5 WITH MORE PRECISE GUIDELINES.

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3. ACCORDING TO CARDOSO, THE ANGOLAN JUNTA DISPATCHED FERNANDO

FALCAO TO KINSHASA (LUANDA 0846) TO TELL MOBUTU AND FNLA LEADER HOLDEN ROBERTO THAT PORTUGUESE POLICY ON DECOLONIZATION WOULD NOT CHANGE. THE IDEA WAS TO HAVE FALCAO, WHO LEADS HIS OWN PARTY, IS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH UNITA AND HAS CONTACTS WITH MPLA, ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP WITH ROBERTO AND BY THIS MEANS FURTHER THE JUNTA'S POLICY OF GETTING EVERYONE TOGETHER. CARDOSO ADDED THAT FALCAO MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB, BUT HE DOES HAVE A LOT OF CONTACTS. AS FAR AS CARDOSO KNEW, FALCAO DID NOT SEE ROBERTO.

4. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, ANGOLANS GENERALLY TOOK EVENTS IN PORTUGAL IN STRIDE, ALTHOUGH GRENADE AND/OR ROCKET EXPLOSIONS ON TWO SUCCESSIVE NIGHTS THIS WEEK (SEPT 21) HAVE CAUSED A BIT OF TENSION. RIGHT WING EXTREMISTS WHO THOUGHT THEY SAW A FRIEND IN SPINOLA ARE VERY UPSET OVER HIS OUSTER AND MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE. THEY HAVE STARTED A WHISPERING CAMPAIGN THAT COSTA GOMES IS A COMMUNIST. THE GOVERNMENT HERE ARRESTED AN UNDISCLOSED NUMBER OF PERSONS ON SEPT. 30 FOR SUSPECTED INVOLVEMENT WITH RIGHT WING EXTREMISTS IN PORTUGAL. THE GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO DISCLOSE THEIR IDENTITIES BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PCDA).
KILLORAN

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